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Art attack

This week's student artist is Gracyn Whitehead. Check out her work on page 2.

No vacancy

The ongoing pandemic has resulted in more people than ever before vacationing in Haliburton County. See page 3.

A picture paints 1,000 words

Lochlin resident shares old photos of community online. See page 4.

A Dysart et al township sidewalk plow is reflected in the window of a downtown business, as it clears a bank of snow from a sidewalk on Thursday, Feb. 25 in Haliburton. Close to midnight, the large scale downtown co-ordinated operation of several vehicles included the clearing of snow from all roads and sidewalks. /DARREN LUM Staff

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HHSS student artist profile

Gracyn is a Grade 11 student at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and has taken visual arts and the yearbook class to improve her creativity and skills. Gracyn aspires to a career in architecture and design.

Growing up, my favourite activity was arts and crafts. For me it was about more than having fun – it was a way where I could show my feelings and imagination visually to my friends and family. When I was seven years old I sold every single one of my toys, all of them. Instead of buying new toys with the money I earned, I bought art supplies. I spent my summers with my mom painting and drawing, although at that age I found I was better at drawing rather than painting.

Now at age 16, I've had more time to explore with paint in my art class and I have improved a lot. I love using colour to express emotion in my work. The majority of my works are inspired by nature and the style I paint in is a cross between realism and fauvism. I have explored with different styles and artists as I love trying out new things.

I like using acrylic paint because it is smooth and more precise for what I want. I really enjoy using pencil because I have more experience using pencil and I have fun with shading to make things look more realistic.

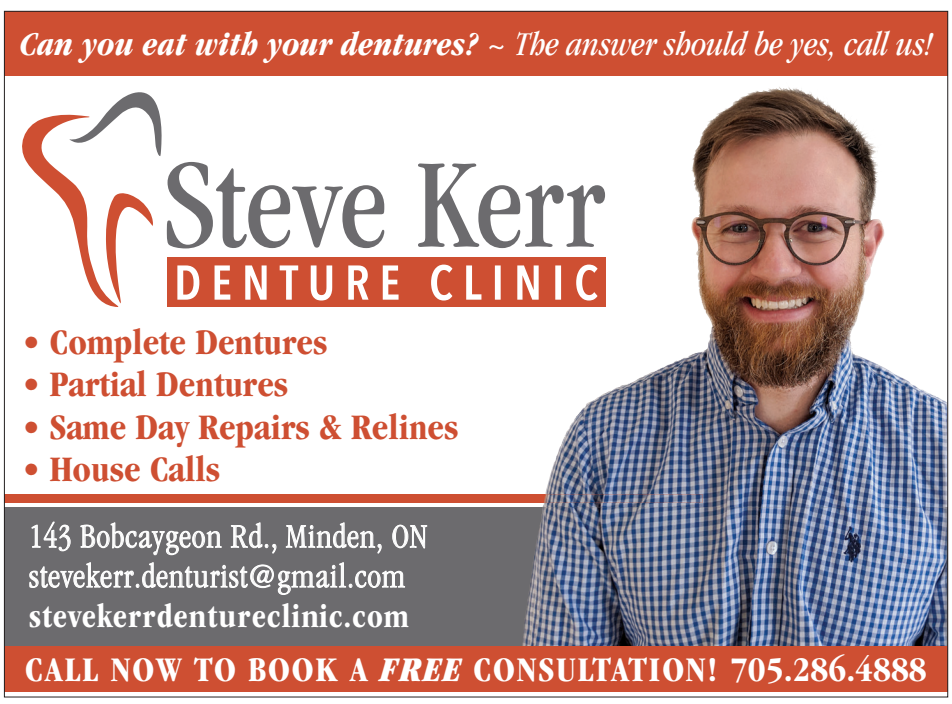
My most influential artists are Henri Matisse, Adrian Brandon, and Lawren S. Harris. I like Matisse's wild colour and movement. Adrian Brandon's work is super inspiring and meaningful, and sends a very important message. Lawren S. Harris is from the Group of Seven, I find some of my paintings similar in shape and form.

Strange Movements, 2020. Acrylic on canvas panel, measuring 18' x 24'. Submitted by Gracyn Whitehead

For inspiration I look to my own life and things that are meaningful to me. There is typically always a story behind the painting and instead of me having to tell that story, I just share the best part of it in the painting. I use memories and my own emotions to create something that allows me to release those emotions visually.

I am one of those picky people when it comes to my art and I have to be pleased with the outcome or else it's not done. I have my peers inside of the school and outside that support my creations and help me to love my own work.

The Blue Bow, 2020. Paper collage, measuring 8. 5' x 11'. Submitted by Gracyn Whitehead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High demand for cottage rentals driven by pandemic

DARREN LUM

County Life Staff

Finding that perfect spot on a lakefront in cottage country will be even more elusive than ever before thanks to unprecedented demand this year spurred by a desire to get away following the loss of summer vacations last year.

Short-term accommodations are a hot commodity because of the pandemic and how more and more people are looking to get away from the city, but still stay in the province.

Cheryl McCombe, owner with Don Critchley of Cottage Care Rentals and Property Management, which represents 65 cottages primarily in the Haliburton Highlands, said she's never seen this kind of demand before after close to eight years of operation.

Before the March lockdown, the company could have taken bookings for the summer, but decided to wait. It was shutdown and did not take bookings from March until June 4 when the "flood gates opened." It's four staff continued to get paid at this time.

"I was literally on the phone from 6:30 in the morning until 11 at night every single day from June 4 all the way until the end the of June and solidly booked every single opening we had at a cottage," she said.

There were lots of people left without a summer vacation last year because of how fast the bookings were made, she adds. This led to people, who missed out last year, to carry their deposits over to bookings for this year.

"It's' crazy. We have very limited space available at any of our cottages right now," she said.

She said a lot of the people booking are frontline service workers, seeking stress relief with a summer vacation, but are facing challenges due to scheduling.

"We have a lot of them sitting on hold somewhere where at least when their schedule opens up they can get away," she said.

The arrangement for accommodations, she said, is safe for everyone.

When the family comes from their home they come directly to the accommodation.

"They get food delivery. They're bringing their food with them. Their kids are going to be able to jump in a lake, hug a tree and make s'mores around a camp fire," she said.

The feeling of relief is palpable when a booking is finalized, she said.

"As soon as we say, 'Yep, OK, great, let's book you into this cottage. It's a good match.' And they fill out all the forms, you can just hear the exhale from them," she said.

Although many are return clients, she said, there are new renters, who would otherwise travel out of the country to warmer climes.

Typically the busy time is the end of June to September, but the added demand has expanded the time period for bookings before and after. Bookings aren't usually made for May because of the bugs, but there has been requests for that month now.

Particularly with families, she said, the hope is to just get away and continue with things like it was in the city or suburbs.

"They think, 'Geez, my kids have been in online learning for so long, if the place has WiFi we can just continue that and have a nice quiet vacation,'" she said. "There's not the need to go back and return to school."

McCombe wasn't sure about the exact figures, but said there is a high percentage of return customers and this year is part of an ongoing trend for the Highlands. Cottage Care Rentals and Property Management is part of the Ontario's Cottage Rental Managers Association, which includes 10 vacation rental companies based in Ontario. It was reported all the OCRMA members have reported close-to-full capacity at a January meeting.

She acknowledges the pandemic is not a good situation, but looking at the positives, of there are many new visitors to the area who are discovering "those hidden gems that exist here."

Muskoka used to be the main cottaging draw for people in Ontario, but in the last four years, she said, there has been a growing demand to come to the Highlands.

The people come here "because they have been hooked on our community. They have been hooked on our nature. They have felt the energy in the Highlands and they feel like they've been welcomed so they're coming back," she said.

This greater demand could provide an opportunity for growth for the area related to services and amenities.

"There are places in Muskoka you can get everything and anything over there and there is no reason why we can't do that here," she said. "All you need is starting a business to do it."

McCombe said the recent lockdown forced them to turn away winter vacationers for February.

"We had to say, no. So we had to cancel. That is important to know that any agency here is working within the rules," she said.

She adds this is important for the health of everyone.

As far as licensed rental agencies go, she said, they didn't rent out accommodations when there was a lockdown the first time last spring despite what people think.

"We are responsible business owners and we will not break the rules. The rules are in place to keep everybody safe," she said.

Bill Dewey, owner of WRD Cottage Rental Agency since 1995, said there has been lots of inquiries for bookings through his agency, but everything has been put on hold for the summer.

"There's no lack of people wanting to rent cottages and we're taking them and putting them on hold until we have some clear guidelines from the government," he said.

WRD represents more than 180 private rental cottages in Central Ontario, including the Haliburton Highlands.

Dewey said he was surprised there has been so many bookings during the pandemic.

It's important to remember, he said, he's not just looking out for the interests

see COTTAGE page 5

Lochlin school photos prompt reflection during pandemic's pause

SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Linda Robertson laughed when asked why she began posting historical photos of Lochlin and Ingoldsby on her personal Facebook page.

"I guess because I haven't anything to do?," she said with a chuckle.

When the first lockdown began last year after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and residents of Ontario tried to flatten the curve to slow the spread of virus by staying home, Linda began actively connecting to her community in the same way she always has – through music – but in a different way than she usually does – online. Self-made videos of Linda on guitar and her sister Doris on a keyboard singing everything from gospel tunes to old country songs are perhaps a far cry from a jam-packed jamboree, but friends have responded positively, appreciating the chance to sing along and listen to local talent while disrupting busy routines to stay home.

Then in January, during the second provincial stay-at-home orders, Linda was looking through and organizing old photos for a memorial slideshow for a friend up north, when she found an old souvenir pamphlet from Ingoldsby showing what Linda refers to as "Uncle Joe's store" and old area lodges, long gone.

"It's kind of neat to put them on and give someone something to look at," said Linda. "A lot of people are on Facebook, I think, looking for stuff to do, and we've had a lot of following on our videos, so I thought, that'd be kind of neat for something different, to put up some old photos and create some interest – and it has."

A photo of a class around 1948, when the new Lochlin school had been built following a fire at the old Lochlin school. The building today is known as the Lochlin community centre. Back row, from left: Barbara Burk, Beth Burk, Carol Crofts, Billy Crofts, Doreen Francis, Muriel Hicks, Ruth Hicks, and Mrs. Celia Brown, teacher. Front row, from left, Patsy Minaker (dark dress), Donna Robertson, Ruby Robertson, Neil Burk, Herbert Hagar, Billy Hicks, Doris Robertson, Elva Hicks and Marjorie Hague. /Submitted

The responses to the photos that Linda posted on her personal page have included memories and inquiries and friendly disputes about interpretations of events from friends who remember the buildings, or had heard stories of their history from family who lived when they were built.

When Linda came across photos from her own childhood, especially pictures taken at Lochlin school, she posted those online, too.

"I ran across the old Lochlin school pictures and I thought, I'm going to post them on there too, because there are people I know having lived here, born and raised in Lochlin – went to that school for eight years, we all had the same teacher," she said. "And everyone else is finding it interesting as well."

Dozens of comments were posted to the photos, which show groups of kids standing in front of the old Lochlin school, a building still standing as a community centre at 4713 Gelert Road. Those kids themselves – now in their 70s and 80s – commented, recalling their own memories of school, as did others from throughout the community, recognizing faces ("My God," said one comment. "You can sure tell who they are ... haven't really changed a whole hell of a lot."), naming who they could, reminiscing about the good old days and thanking Linda for sharing.

Linda's cousin in Haliburton saw the photos, and also called her, to share that she's working on a genealogy project connecting the dots of the Robertson family history.

Linda's family were some of the first settlers in Ingoldsby. Her great, great grandfather came from Scotland by boat, some family coming over as United Empire Loyalists, and settled in the Picton area before coming to this area. A letter collecting history of the move details that Linda's ancestors settled in the Ingoldsby and Lochlin area, Lochlin being referred to as "Little Egypt" at the time due, Linda believes, to the geographical feature her dad called a hog's back and she calls an esker, full of gravel that runs from Ingoldsby to Lochlin. She said she once heard a story from Gerald Hicks about when the family that first lived in what would become her family's farmhouse – the Yerex family – realized they were not alone in settling in the area when they happened upon the Vangesen family.

"They thought – each one of those families – thought they were the only people in the region at the time," says Linda. "[The Yerex patriarch] got up one morning, on our farm, and he heard a rooster crowing, and it wasn't his. So he followed where he thought he heard it, he walked the hog's back, the esker, until he came to the Vangesen farm, and found another family there, and that's when he realized

see MEMORIES page 5

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Don't keep me a secret!

Memories of school still vivid decades later

from page 4

he had neighbours."

Linda said the conversation with her cousin was fascinating because of her genealogy work.

"She sent me pictures of my family and stuff like that," she said. "It's been quite the experience, actually, I didn't realize when I [posted the photos], I just did it for something to do ... It's created quite the interest out there, not just for our family, but everybody."

Pat Trerice, known then as Patsy Minaker, is 80 now, but she could easily name every student in one of the photos Linda had posted, even recalling it vividly in her memory while discussing it later.

"I was the one, in the front row, there's a little girl on the end, and then I'm the next one, with the big smile on my face," she told *County Life* of the photo, which showed a group that had returned from a Kiwanis music festival in Toronto with a prize ("We must have won first prize," said Pat. "Because we have the trophy.") Only two of the children in the front row of that picture are still alive today, which Pat knows because the group has kept in close touch over decades.

"We're all still friends," she said. "All the friends I went to public school with, they're all my friends still."

For many kids who grew up in the Lochlin community at that time, the memories are similar, of laundry tub baths with woodstove-heated water, food ration stamps or the after-effects of the war, church gatherings or outings to the bustling Lochlin General Store, line-ups for mandatory vaccinations from the travelling nurse, and of school – together – in the one-room schoolhouse with their teacher, Mrs. Celia Brown.

Pat remembers clearly the first day of school, around 1945 or 1946 for her, in the original Lochlin school, which burned down soon after that.

"When we first started, the first day of school, I was so excited to be with all of these kids and I mean, I kept turning around talking to everybody, I was a little chatterbox," she said. "Mrs. Brown, she took me to the back of the room. I guess she warned me a couple of times and I still kept talking – but I wasn't the only one – and I ended up in the corner, back by the pump, with my nose in the corner. I cried my eyes out, I was so upset that I was back there. Different ones had to come back and do that, we were all so excited, we little ones. It taught me a lesson – you don't talk out in school, you learn to put your hand up."

Mrs. Brown was the only teacher both Pat and Linda had in elementary school, from Grade 1 to Grade 8.

Linda as well as her three older sisters Doris, Donna and Ruby, and one younger sister Judy attended Lochlin school, though there is an age gap of about 18 years between the oldest and the youngest sister.

"We all, all of us, our whole family, went to the Lochlin school, and we all had the same teacher," said Linda. "It's interesting that Celia Brown, she taught all the children in Lochlin. Like all the original people that lived in Lochlin were taught by her." (Helen Alkerton taught at the school prior to Brown).

Pat remembers Mrs. Brown taking her class on nature walks up the road, teaching about various plants growing on the side of the road or in fields.

"We also would have our sketch books with us and would sit down on the side of the ditch or field and draw what we were looking at," she said.

Linda, who went to the school from 1955 to 1963, remembers studying penmanship and arithmetic, having

see CELIA page 7

Cottage association 'optimistic' about summer season

from page 3

of renters.

"I've got two customers. I've got the renter that rents the cottage, but another important aspect is the owners. The owners come to us. Without them I don't have anything to sell so they're all just sitting back and waiting now as to what the government's going to do. I don't know whether we'll ever get a definitive answer the way the government's been operating lately," he said.

He adds the cottage owners are hesitant to proceed with bookings this summer for health concerns.

Dewey tries to listen for updates, but finds it challenging with changing messages.

"Everyday I get up and listen [for] the new protocols ... It's difficult for a company like ours or anybody in the hospitality industry right now," he said.

He welcomes the inquiries despite the issues with what is and what isn't permitted.

"I encourage them to come to us and if they find a cottage on our website that they like we put their name on it and we wait for the government to make their decisions," he said.

If a provincial decision leads to a ban on short-term summer accommodations, McCombe said deposits will be returned to people.

However McCombe is optimistic the summer will play out like last year because of the vaccine.

"If we didn't go through [with bookings] when do you wait until? That's the question," she said.

She adds,"We have to have hope that it's going to be okay for the summer time or else you go crazy."

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Capturing the clouds

MICHAEL BARNES
Special to *County Life*

County people still watch James Cagney movies even though the actor passed away in 1986. At the beginning of WWII half of a big budget movie was made just up the road in Temagami and North Bay and Cagney was its star. A senior RCAF officer read the shooting script and declared it to be tripe.

It turns out he was the only naysayer. His view was military but the general public gave it three thumbs up. Credits were excellent. Famed director Michael Curtiz also brought in cast members Dennis Morgan, Brenda Marshall and Alan Hale. Canada's most famous air war hero, Billy Bishop, VC, even had a cameo role.

Training fliers under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan cost $33,000 for each allied pilot. This was not a popular expenditure at first so the film theme was to try and promote the plan, hence RCAF cooperation.

The plot of the action movie worked around bush pilots who wanted to fly against the enemy. But the pilots were considered too old for combat and instead valuable as instructors or ferrying planes across the Atlantic.

Tough guy Cagney would rebel against lack of action in the training period. In the exciting finale, the bomber he was ferrying to England was attacked by a German fighter. The scrappy pilot who could not accept military discipline redeemed himself by ramming the enemy aircraft and paying the price.

The scenes shot in the north country showed the dauntless bush pilots going about their business. Their often dangerous antics undertaken to gain jobs over competitors were fun to watch but in real life, no doubt, would have resulted in the loss of a license.

Viewers even today familiar with the Gateway to the North could recognize several locations in the picture. They had after all experienced the making of the Silent Enemy, Canada's last silent movie only a decade before.

After the northern scenes were in the can, filming moved to Ottawa. Real airmen served as extras. At Uplands air base. Billy Bishop gave a pep talk to a pilot graduating class and people were proud as they watched a real life hero.

Theme music for the film was written by Johnny Mercer. The tune was fine but when it sold as sheet music, the publishers stretched the truth a bit. They called the piece the official song of the RCAF. This was not so but no matter for the movie did what its backers wanted and promoted the Plan which brought new pilots to the Battle of Britain.

The $3 million epic The Captains of the Clouds was a big budget picture for a movie made close to eighty years ago. The project handsomely repaid its backers and prints are still found in handsome technicolor. Check out the CD at the library.

Critics were effusive. After all, who could knock a patriotic film? A spin off to its success were the huge crowds that greeted the stars wherever they went. The hoopla cheered a population geared up for the realities of war. In the north the actors were feted, wined and dined and treated to trips to favorite fishing holes.

Down south their presence in the then staid Ottawa caused traffic jams and groups of admiring fans held up shooting as they tried to catch a glimpse of the stars.

At the same time, the movie makers caused delays in the pilot training program and instructors were glad to see the crew leave so the new pilots could concentrate on their studies.

Warner Brothers blurbed that their product illustrated the gallant work of the Canadian fliers. Ontario saw a few weeks of excitement, even though early parts of the film were far fetched. All in all it was not a bad picture. Check it out and see if tripe sums up part of the script.

Try the local library for CDs on the two films mentioned.

'Michael Barnes is a Minden-based writer, and prolific author. You can contact him at michaelbarnes53@hotmail.com.

Top 10 signs that spring is almost here

Melting snow, warmer temperatures, longer hours of daylight – all these things are indications that spring is well on its way. But, for those who pay attention, there are other more subtle clues too. Here are the top 10.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. More people standing beside roadside puddles shaking their fists.
2. The feeling that this driveway just might shovel itself..
3. Depressed-looking snowmen.
4. The snowblower finally starts working.
5. No more talk about New Year's resolutions.
6. The groundhog that got it right is looking pretty smug.
7. When someone says it's a sappy movie, you immediately think its about maple syrup.
8. You make a snowball in the dog park at your own risk.
9. You remember where you put your good set of mitts.
10. You can hide your lawn mower in the ice hut once again.

Algonquin rhymes

I hold a private reverence for big Algonquin Park
I grew up in the city, but my open heart's a stark
Tight storage space of longing for original and clean
A treasure chest with memories of earth and
sky pristine

And myriads of hiking paths towards a history
Of painters, logging barons and high vistas
where we see
The past has hardly changed at all: protectiveness
and pride
There's beauty here, and research which is
recognized worldwide

Old forest and deciduous, rare slime molds,
special moss
Two hundred all-told vertebrates: white-tails and
moose crisscross
Four seasons. Owls and crows join in above a
wolf pack howl
And ravens commandeer a kill, though eagles
also prowl

It's nature's tacit balance which feeds
equalizing here
A thousand different stories fill all twelve months
of each year
A frozen lake, a trail in snow, small footprints
of a mink
Then melted into springtime comes first
lady slipper pink

All colours fern and fungi, lichen clutches
everywhere
Strange pitcher plants in peat bogs, damselflies
above mid-air
Bunchberry, trillium, jewelweed, columbine
and wintergreen
Lone beaver hauls young aspen towards a lodge
that's hardly seen

A secret den for black bear, and some tiny
ones for fox
Safe habitat for snappers and a skink below the rocks
Black snakes, blue bugs, brown water hiding fish
and holding fowl
Where loons communicate at dusk: one long
and ghostly vowel

Damp earth smells during autumn with explosion
of puffball
As rainbow variations from the broad-leafs
start to fall
That afterglow of tamarack on darkness of Jack pine
Or walls of hemlock, balsam, spruce, up crest and
down incline

I stand a thousand seconds and hear nothing but the
trees
Old Mother Wind is winning still; her very voice
speaks ease
With humans much included too, though
correlation's first
If sacred Park survives our trends, respect is
reimbursed

Deborah J Reed

Celia Brown's lifelong contribution to community cherished by many

from page 5

spelling bees and the unique way in which Mrs. Brown had to teach eight grades at once – putting students in groups according to grade, teaching a short lesson to the Grade 1s and giving them an assignment to work on while she moved on to the next grade and so on.

"Mrs. Brown was an amazing person to be able to pull that off," said Linda.

Pat said there were a few times when the boys got into fist fights, and Mrs. Brown would contact their parents to let them know she would be giving them the strap on their hand. Linda doesn't remember the strap being used, but did note that the teacher "had to be in control, with that many kids."

"One thing that she used to do, if the boys or somebody got in trouble outside, they got fighting or doing whatever it was they shouldn't have been doing, she'd sneak outside, ring the bell, and everybody paid the price," said Linda. "Everybody had to come in, you had to go back and work – get back to school."

While Pat remembers playing "war" at recess time, a game in which the boys would be soldiers and the girls would be nurses, using branches to pretend to give them needles as they cared for their "wounds," and a game of chase called "Fox and Goose," Linda remembers hopscotch, tag, and throwing a ball over the school.

"If it was nasty outside, too cold to go out, then we had checkers that we played inside, or we'd do art – draw things, that kind of stuff," said Linda. "But it had to be darn cold before you got out of going outside for recess."

Both women very fondly remember a travelling library, in which a suitcase of books would be brought in to the school once a month or once every two months, taking books home to read before returning them to check out another one.

"In the afternoon, if everyone got their work done during the day, Mrs. Brown would read to us," said Pat.

One year, Pat came in third in a public speaking contest and received the book, *The Bells on Finland Street*, written by Lyn Cook. Mrs. Brown read a chapter of it to the class once or twice a week – the students focusing to get their work done to hear another chapter – and then had them write to Cook, who wrote back to the students. Pat introduced the author to her own daughter years later at a library event in Scarborough.

"I went over to meet her and I took the letter with me, to show her that I was the little girl that won the book," she said.

"I always liked reading and of course Mrs. Brown always promoted that a lot, too," said Linda. "She would take a book out of that [library], and before we started class, she would read out loud to us for half an hour."

Linda would take books out, and – with no hydro in the house - read to her family by lamp light.

"You all had to go to bed at 9 o'clock, there was no staying up, but before we went to bed, after suppertime and before bed, we'd all gather around, and either Dad would play his mouth organ, or we'd sing, or I would read a chapter or two out of the book," she said. "Mom and Dad enjoyed it as much as the rest of us did." (Linda said they also had a radio at home for entertainment, an old battery radio, but the only time they were allowed to put it on was to hear the news, and the Grand Ole Opry.)

Mrs. Brown was a beloved community member. Besides being the sole teacher at Lochlin school for numerous years, she was also organist and music director for Lochlin United Church for more than 35 years.

"She was always Mrs. Brown, to everyone, and her husband was Archie," said Linda. "We didn't call him Mr. Brown. It was Mrs. Brown and Archie. I don't know why that was the way it was."

Archie was a trapper, and Linda remembers there always being something that smelled delicious cooking away at the house on Mrs. Brown's days off – sometimes it was beaver.

Mrs. Brown and Archie's house was a second home to many of the kids in Lochlin, according to Pat, who remembers spending a lot of time there.

"She encouraged three or four of us to take piano lessons on her piano," she remembered. "Mr. Fred Clements would come down from Haliburton on a Saturday morning and we would have a specific time to be there and have a lesson."

The Browns had one of the first television sets in Lochlin, George and Betty Exon having the other one, according to Pat.

"I spent Sunday nights with Archie and Mrs. Brown watching the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Brothers show and the Ed Sullivan show," she said. "And Mrs. Brown would make cookies and give me hot chocolate. I was just like their kid. And then I'd have to run home after it was over, across the railroad track and across the big road to my house, and they'd stand on their porch and yell 'are you there yet?' and make sure I got home OK."

Linda remembers students stopping by to show Mrs. Brown their Halloween costumes, noting that she was "the centre of the community."

The end of the school day was used as a teaching moment.

"She would give us mathematical questions orally and we would have to figure out the answers in our heads," said Pat. "The first one to get the answer right – after putting up their hands of course – would be let go from school. She kept this up until everyone was dismissed."

One day, Archie found a deer in the bush while he was checking his traps, a deer which was subsequently called Bambi and which used to follow Mrs. Brown to school and back.

"We all loved that deer," said Pat. "I was at Mrs. Brown's house the day that Archie brought the deer home and he was so feeble. His little legs were very shaky and they put him in a big cardboard box in the kitchen."

Bambi used to visit the Minaker house, chomping on carrots fed to it over the edge of the verandah.

"That was after I had already started high school, but everyone knew Bambi," said Pat.

Around the mid-60s, Lochlin school was closed and Linda's little sister, Judy, was bussed to the new Archie Stouffer Elementary School, but Mrs. Brown went there, too, teaching for a short time before retiring.

"There's quite a few generations of children that she had taught," said Linda.

Mrs. Brown was a lifelong friend for numerous kids as they grew up in Lochlin, visiting her with their own children even after having moved away, and even after she moved away, to Dunsford. Celia Brown died in 2008 in her 100th year. A donation from her estate helped to put in place the playground equipment at the Lochlin Community Centre in 2016.

Pat went to high school in Haliburton the first year it

see RESIDENTS page 8

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'We remember the good times there'

from page 7

opened, in 1953.

"Leslie Frost was the premier of Ontario," she said. "He came and spoke and he gave us a holiday on Nov. 6, which was my birthday."

Linda said the routine of high school – getting on a bus, switching classes, having different teachers, being around a bigger group of less familiar students after years of socializing with only immediate neighbours – was an unpleasant experience after having one teacher in one school room for almost a decade.

"When I went to high school, I had to go from room to room to room to get around, which, for me, I hadn't been out of Lochlin," said Linda. "To go there, I found it difficult, hard to go from room to room. And to have a different teacher for every subject. It was a shock to me, really."

While some students might not have liked school in their childhood, many of the kids from Lochlin school have fond memories.

"I was one of the ones who really liked school, and I loved Mrs. Brown, I loved my teacher," said Linda. "I looked forward to going to school, I wanted to go to school. Until I got to high school. It wasn't nearly as much fun as it was in [elementary] school ... Anyway, I made it through."

For many people, taking this time of pause in the world to research their family history or reconnect with old friends over times gone by has helped them feel less alone.

"[Posting the photos has] created a lot of reminiscing and a lot of reconnecting, I'd say," said Linda. "They have more time on their hands, so a lot of people are having to stay home, and they're bored, looking for something to do. Facebook, and social media, has been a godsend for a lot of people. When they see pictures – oh, there's a picture of me when I was eight years old, it's kind of cool to see yourself on there. And with the music, I've had so so many people say, please keep doing that, it's been like a saving grace, because there's been no contact with the outside world."

She said that after seeing the photos, many friends reconnected with each other online, and made a point to reach out and touch base with those who aren't using social media.

"It does seem to create interest, and that's what it's all about," said Linda. "We remember the good times there. For me, a child growing up, it was all about school and all about church. Your neighbours were like family to you. All those people in those photos there, they're almost like siblings."

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Dorset man worried about 3 wolves that are 'too comfortable' in community

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A Dorset man is concerned by the lack of accountability at both the provincial and municipal levels as a pack of wolves run roughshod over his tiny, rural hamlet.

Mike Baum has lived in the area for practically his whole life. Having been "raised in the woods", with extensive experience studying wild animals, Baum admitted the current situation involving three wolves is "unusual, disturbing and unsettling."

Since arriving on the scene late last year, the wolves have been spotted in populated areas at all time of the day, and, at this point, appear to have scared away deer that regularly congregated in the area, and killed off all of the community's feral cats.

"Typically, wolves are extremely afraid of humans. That's inherent in their normal behaviour," Baum told *County Life*. "Through all of my years hunting, if we were even able to catch a glimpse of a wolf, it was like a huge reward, or experience of the year, because usually they won't go anywhere where they can sense, or smell humans."

But that isn't the case with this particular pack, who Baum believes have made their home in the bush behind Portico Timber Frames, just off Highway 35.

At night time especially, he has witnessed them wandering along Dorset's Main St. with increased regularity. Mike's daughter, Sabrina, who also lives in Dorset, has actually caught the wolves on a motion camera she recently installed at her property. That decision was brought on by a close encounter of her own earlier this winter, when she caught one of the wolves lurking behind her vehicle as she walked down her front steps.

While Sabrina was fortunate in the sense that she, nor her pet Husky were attacked, fellow Dorset resident Rebecca Sims says her family wasn't so fortunate.

Back on Dec. 11, after letting one of her family's dogs outside on the front porch, it was attacked, by either a coyote or a wolf, Rebecca says. The animal would eventually succumb to its injuries.

This wasn't the first unpleasant encounter the Sims family have had with wild animals since moving to the area in 2017 – a couple of years ago they found a dead deer beside their home, that she believed had been killed for sport, displaying only a single wound and no evidence it had been eaten.

The incident surrounding the Sims' dog has caused concerns throughout the community, Baum says. For Rebecca and her family, it's changed the way they live their life.

"The proximity [of the attack] causes great concern. We have taken measures to ensure we are outside with the kids whenever possible, and we have installed more exterior lights [on our property], as well as [creating] a well-lit pathway between our home and the neighbours," Sims said. "Our entire family has been affected by the loss of our pet. My older son, who is eight years old, saw our injured dog outside. Given how dark it was, we aren't sure how much he was able to see that morning, but he was very aware of how much pain our dog was in. It is something that has left a huge mark on all of us."

While Sims didn't report the incident, Baum has been in regular contact with officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry [MNRF]. He says the responses he's received to date are "quite discouraging."

Baum says he was given the contact number of a local trapper, although the Ministry cautioned against the practice, expressing concern that regular pets, such as cats and dogs, could get caught in the crosshairs. He was also asked to canvass homes in the area, to see if anyone was leaving garbage outside for a prolonged period, or, worse, feeding any of the wild animals that live in the area.

"That was laughable. As a concerned citizen, reporting a real issue… To then be told myself to go out into my community and canvass," Baum laughed, shaking his head. "I honestly don't think they have a strategy for this kind of situation, because it is so rare."

In the end, Baum says he was told the control of wild animals was more of a municipal issue. When we asked Greg Moore, a bylaw officer with Algonquin Highlands, if this was, in fact, the case, he responded by saying "the municipality does not have jurisdiction over the control of wild animals."

Following up with the MNRF, provincial officials appeared to pass the buck back into the township's court.

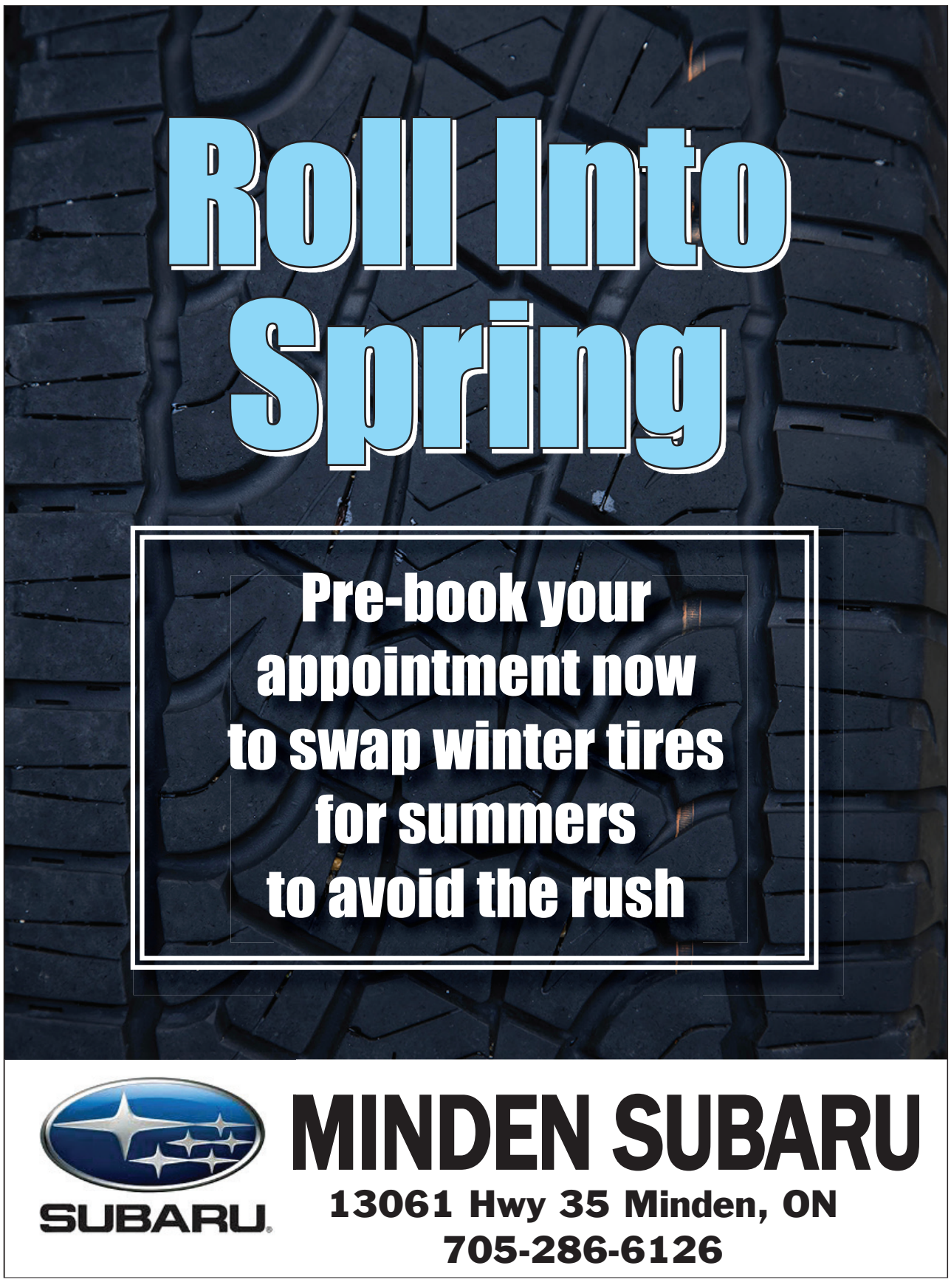
"Municipalities are responsible for decisions regarding appropriate action when human-wildlife encounters create ongoing conflict situations on municipal property, and can also take action on private property with the permission of the landowner," says Jolanta Kowalski, MNRF media relations officer.

Kowalski confirmed the ministry's Parry Sound district office received a call regarding wolves in the Dorset area back in December, however without photographic or physical evidence, she said it cannot confirm whether the animals in question are wolves or coyotes, as their appearance and behaviour can be very similar. She confirmed the office had followed up by providing information on how to prevent and manage conflicts with wildlife on private property.

Baum says there's no questioning that these animals are wolves, saying they are fully grown and estimating them to be around 100 pounds. He wants to see action taken to prevent any further issues from occurring in the Dorset area.

"My fear is, if these wolves are so comfortable that they're walking down our main street, and attacking family pets on their property, then what's next? God forbid they attack a child," Baum said. "Even I find myself looking over my shoulder now when I'm out in the community. It's an eerie, uncomfortable, unsettling feeling. I grew up knowing that wolves are afraid of humans, and avoid human contact at all costs. That's part of their preservation, part of their DNA. What we're seeing with these wolves is the total opposite of that."

> *"My fear is, if these wolves are so comfortable that they're walking down our main street, and attacking family pets on their property, then what's next? God forbid they attack a child.*
>
> — Mike Baum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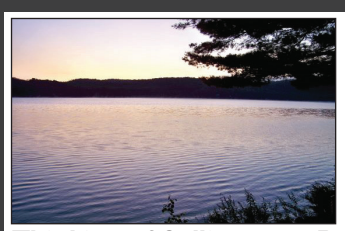

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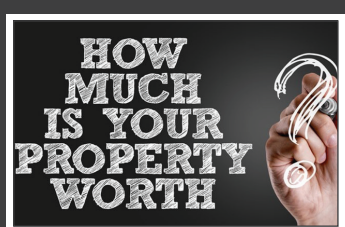

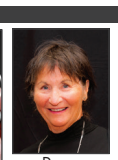

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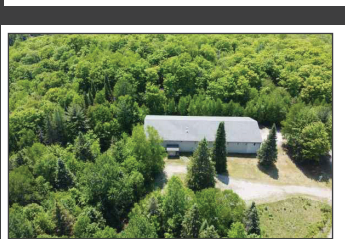

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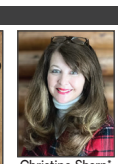

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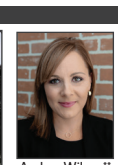

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Pink for thought

Mr. Swim and Ms. Madamba's Grade 4 J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School students Cheyenne Mathura, left, Maya Parish, Amelie Patton-Guerra, Sophia Owen, Hadley Burtch, Julia Lafferty, Zoe Cooney, Meghan Walker, Claire Lynch and Amy LePage participated in Pink Shirt Day wearing pink on Feb. 24 in Haliburton. The origins of Pink Shirt Day is linked to two Grade 12 students David Shephard and Travis Price of Nova Scotia, who created a swell of support for a bullied Grade 9 student wearing a pink T-shirt by going out and buying pink shirts for them and friends to wear as an act of solidarity. Students across the country now participate to raise awareness and show support against bullying. /Submitted by principal David Waito

Showing their support for Pink Shirt Day was Stuart Baker Elementary School's Grade 3 French immersion students Nessie Legge front left, Sena Renel, Fia Scuhr Marziali, Nicole Nienajadlo and Evelyn Mardus. At back, from left, Kinley Cox, Claire Ryalen, Spencer Bevan. /Submitted by Marie-Lee Zahab

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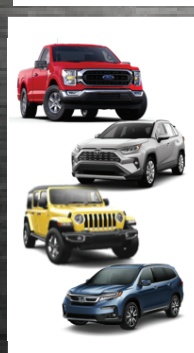

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HSRC will deliver report

Decision on Thursday

Individuals in the health services community will soon have the answers they have been waiting for....but perhaps not the answers they want to hear.

The Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC) has announced it will be releasing its report this Thursday, in Peterborough. Members of hospital boards and the District Health Council have been called to a special meeting at which the commission's decisions will be revealed.

"Naturally we are concerned about what the commissioners will have to say," Foster Loucks, executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services said. "We came away from our meeting with them (in January) feeling fairly confident that they understood our situation here." However, as a result of the Commission's decisions in the interim, rumours and speculation on what direction the commission might take, have, if not undermined, at least somewhat reduced that confidence.

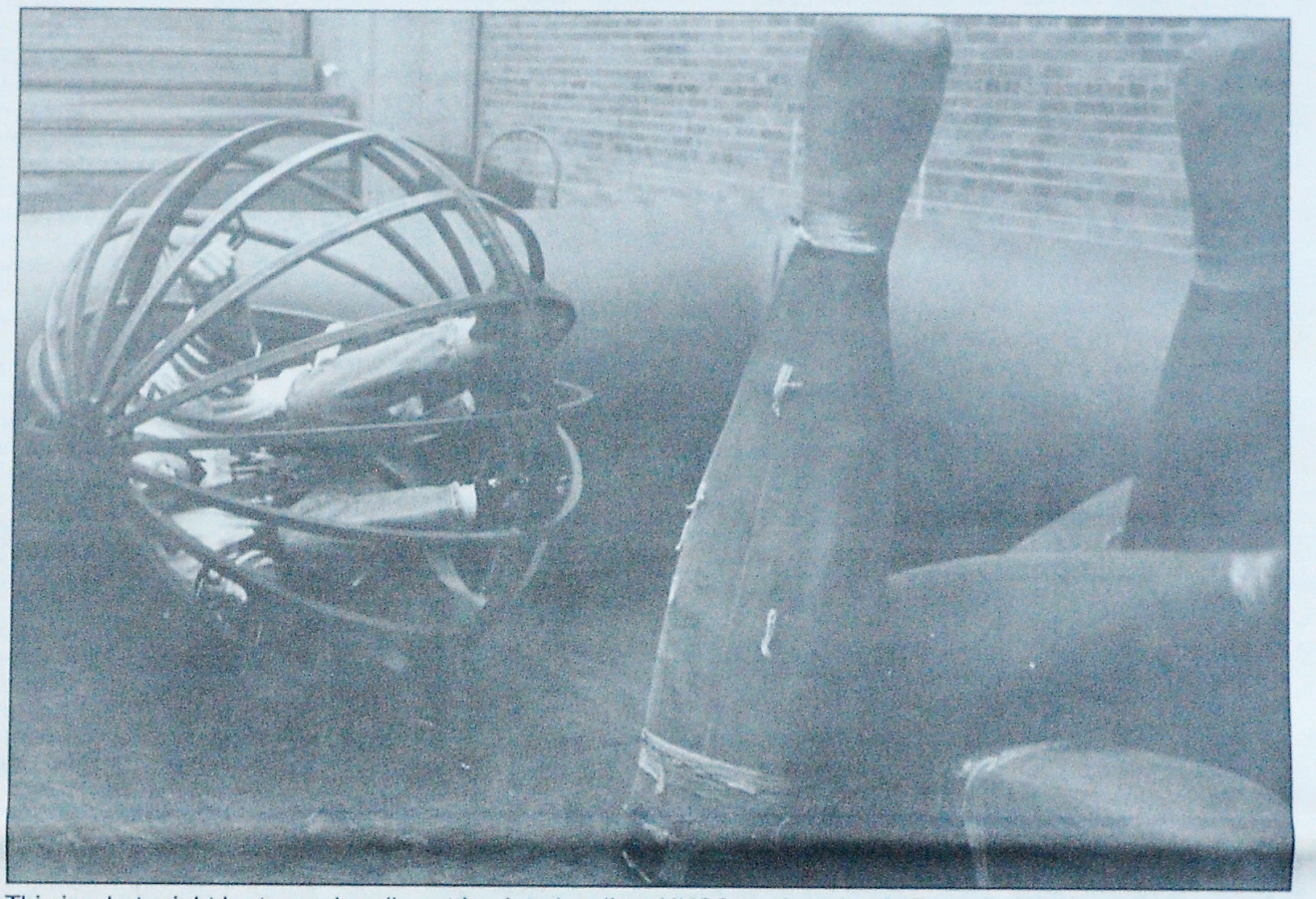
"I am particularly concerned about the governance issue," Loucks said. In adjacent jurisdictions the commission has created "cluster" governance models, combining a number of hospitals under a single board of directors. In Haliburton County, it is only in the last few years that governance of the two county hospitals has come under a locally elected board. Previously, direction of the Haliburton and Minden Hospitals was set by the St. Joseph's Hospital Board in Peterborough and prior to that by the Red Cross.

The executive director also expressed some concern for the capital projects expected to start in a couple of months time. The commission's decisions could have a major impact on the future of these projects. It was felt the commissioners had understood the need for the projects to proceed, but in other jurisdictions the commission's decisions to close hospitals have caught communities by surprise.

One aspect of the HSRC actions has caught many people off guard. When the commission visited the area almost two months ago, they promised to report to the community by the end of March. The early response is a welcome surprise and means that the various health bodies can get on with planning for the future.

"We've all reached the point where we just want to hear what direction the Commission has set. Then we can get on with our planning," Loucks said. "In a way, whatever their comments are next Thursday, it will be a relief to finally hear what they have to say."

Once the report has been released, the community will have up to 30 days to respond to the recommendations, at which time the commission will issue a final and binding report.



This is what might be termed really getting into bowling. HHSS student Jamie Doan finds himself locked inside the ball as it rolls toward the giant pins. The opportunity to become one with the sport was part of the Spirit Week activities at the high school, which also included Sumo wrestling. The week was capped off with an all night dance-a-thon to raise money for the new performing arts centre.

Minden Wild Water Preserve included in Toronto Olympic bid

Minden is back in the Olympic spot light. The Minden Wild Water preserve is part of the Toronto bid for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

According to a press release from the Toronto Olympic Bid Corporation, the Minden site would be used for the whitewater canoeing competition if Toronto were chosen as the host city.

Angela Trunfio, a spokesperson for the Toronto 2008 Committee, said that, following the near unanimous endorsement of Toronto City Council last week, the next step in selecting Toronto as the host site is coming up in April. "The Toronto committee will be taking its proposal to the Canadian Olympic Association (COA) in April seeking its approval. That decision is expected April 17," Trunfio said. Once approved by the COA, the Toronto bid will be reviewed by the International Olympic Association. A decision from the IOC is not expected until the fall of 2001, when the committee meets in Moscow.

There are no other Canadian cities bidding for the 2008 Summer Olympics, although three have indicted their interest in the 2010 winter games. They are Quebec City, Calgary and Vancouver.

According to the committee, the Toronto bid has a number of things going for it, including timing. Trunfio pointed out that other cities which have indicated an interest in the 2008 Olympics include Buenos Aires, Istanbul and Osaka. However, with the Olympic Games aready scheduled for Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004, a North American bid will likely be seen in a more favourable light. As well, the US Olympic Committee has indicated it is not interested in hosting the games in 2008.

The Wild Water Preserve was part of an earlier bid by Toronto for the 2000 games. The Minden site has been included again this time because of the challenging course which includes grade three and four rapids, the guaranteed, coinsistent waterflow and its proximity to Toronto. The fact the site has hosted several world championships is an indication that the organizational skills are available to ensure a successful Olympic competition.

This current bid builds on the groundwork that was laid for that unsuccessful attempt. It includes some of the ideas incorporated in the 2000 bid and such facilities as the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the National Trade Centre, the Air Canada Centre and SkyDome. Other facilities which would have to be built would include an Olympic Stadium, an Aquatic Centre, a Velodrome and a Beach Volleyball facility. In addition, an Olympic Village and Media Village would be required in Toronto.

There was no indication of the infrastructure which would be required at the Wildwater Preserve or in the Minden area to support the hosting of the games.

Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jeanne Anthon said she was pleased with the fact that the Preserve is part of the 2008 Olympic bid.

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BOB LAKE $699,000

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KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE RD $699,000

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KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE $479,000

This cute and cozy 2-bdrm, 1 bath home. Located in the heart of Ingoldsby. Many recent improvements include, flooring throughout, windows, drilled well, new propane furnace and many more. Updated kitchen with white cabinetry and granite counter tops. The beautiful Haliburton room with stunning lake views. Great aluminum docking system and excellent swimming and fishing across the road.

DRAG RIVER $399,000

Charming 2-bdrm, 1 bath seasonal cottage. Large wrap around deck to enjoy the stunning riverfront views or the beautiful scenery Haliburton County offers. Large eat-in kitchen finished with white cabinetry and ample natural lighting. Large unfinished walk-out basement. 250ft of frontage on Drag River and ample privacy. Excellent canoeing, Kayaking and ample swimming.

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